



Fee Waiver Information

National Park Service (NPS) regulations allow school groups and other *bona fide* national and international academic institutions to obtain a waiver for park entrance fees, provided that the visit is for educational or scientific purposes, and the resources or facilities the group proposes to use support those purposes.

Academic fee waivers are not granted automatically. Applicant groups must show they qualify for the waiver.

There are three criteria the group must meet to qualify for an academic fee waiver:

1- Educational Purpose of the Visit

Applicants must provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific educational curriculum for which academic credit is offered, even if on a commercial tour.

2- Relevance of Park Resources or Facilities

Applicants must provide a written statement identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose.

3- Eligibility

Applicants must prove they are a bona fide academic institution by *submitting one of the following*:

- A statement confirming educational or scientific tax-exemption from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority; or
- A statement, from a bona fide academic institution, confirming that the group is visiting for the purpose of providing transferable educational credit based on a curriculum; or
- A statement of accreditation, or recognition as an academic institution, from a recognized national, regional, state, or local authority at the applicant's location.

If your group is using a commercial tour company, the group (not the company) must apply for the fee waiver and must state how the tour supports the curriculum.

How to Apply

If you meet all three of the above criteria, submit the following to seug_waivers@nps.gov:

A) A **cover letter**, on school or organization letterhead that: explains how the visit supports a specific educational curriculum for which academic credit is offered; identifies the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit; and identifies how the park resources and/or facilities are relevant to that educational purpose.

Note: A general statement that the visit is for "educational purposes" is insufficient.
See Educational Purpose of Visit and Relevance of Park Resources or Facilities above.

- State in your letter that you understand fee waivers are allowed only for academic institutions that are using the park for educational purposes and the planned trip meets all requirements for an educational fee waiver.

- Please include the name and correspondence address of the institution; contact name(s) with telephone/fax number(s) and email address; approximate date and time of arrival and departure; approximate number of vehicles; areas you plan to visit; and approximate number of students and chaperones, including faculty.

B) Current, official documentation of eligibility such as described in above.

It is insufficient to merely state or imply this on the organization's letterhead. Your fee waiver request cannot be approved without one of these documents.

See Eligibility, above.

C) Provide the name and brief description of the course. The applicant must be providing educational credit hours based on a specific course of instruction.

Notes

- Each vehicle must present a copy of the approved fee waiver at the park entrance station.
- Fee waivers are not available at entrance stations, visitor centers, or park headquarters.
- Academic fee waivers do not include camping or other activity fees.
- Academic fee waivers cannot be granted for hardship factors.

All academic fee waiver applications must be received at least three weeks prior to your anticipated trip.

Your patience is appreciated since the park receives a high volume of fee waiver requests.

If your request is approved, you will receive an academic fee waiver via e-mail (or by fax or mail if requested) at least 7 days (1 week) before the requested waiver date.

If your request is denied, you will receive a letter from the park explaining why your group does not qualify for an educational fee waiver.

If required material is not submitted, the park will attempt to contact and assist you.

The Fee Program Manager can be reached during normal business hours at (435) 719-2145 or at seug_waivers@nps.gov.